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The McKinley Herald.

Vol. II, No. 2. BUFFALO, N. Y., AND McKINLEY, ISLE OF PINES. March, 1906.

WORK ON THE MANIGUA ORANGE GROVES.

6,000 CITRUS TREES ARE NOW BEING PLANTED.

Supt. Reid Arrives and Takes Charge of Work.

The month of February has been a very busy one at McKinley, not only on the part of the Company, but the settlers as well. The setting out of the 6,000 orange and grapefruit trees which arrived the middle of January, has been pushed vigorously on the Orange Groves tract, while all the available carpenters have been busy erecting the cottage for the Orange Groves' superintendent, Mr. Robert Reid, and on the Dunnings' new house.

Under date of January 24th, President Hayes writes as follows:

"Since writing you last week we have continued our work preparing for the planting of the orange trees just received, and are progressing rapidly. We have already heeled in all but a few which we are planting in their proper positions in the grove, but heavy rains for the last two days have stopped the work.

"We have planted the five-acre piece in front of the Grove House and nearly half of the five-acre piece in the extreme southeast corner. From the latter point we will continue northward until all that we now have are planted.

"The trees are in fine shape and will start into growth in a short time."

Mr. Hayes also writes that Mr. Robert Reid visited McKinley to look over the ground on January 18th and that as a result of this visit a contract was made with Mr. Reid to take full charge of the Manigua Orange and Grapefruit Groves from February 1st. Mr. Reid will not only have full charge of setting out the trees in the groves, but will also attend to their cultivation and will, furthermore, give advice to settlers on all matters relating to the care and development of their private groves. He will be assisted in his work on the Manigua Groves by a sufficient force of workmen and the necessary teams and equipment.

THE COMPANY'S VEGETABLE GARDEN.

Mr. Hayes writes, under date of February 3d:

"Our garden has done very well, and good supplies of peas, beans, radish, lettuce and greens have been obtained from it, which were greatly relished, and cucumbers, squash, melons, onions, carrots, etc., are coming on soon."

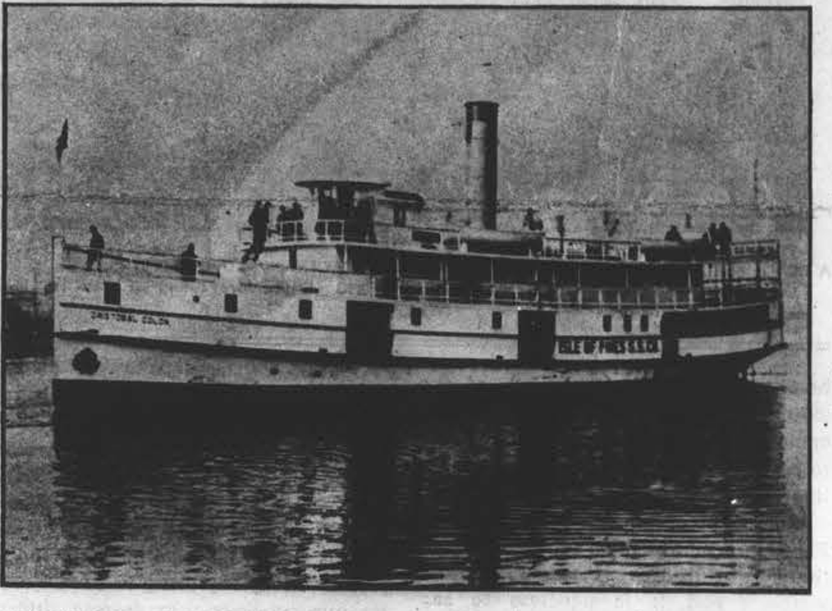
The Company's garden is in the five-acre square of the Orange Grove directly east of the Grove House. This square slopes gently from the house and has been planted recently with young orange trees. The garden beds are between the rows of trees, and the seeds had not been planted when our treasurer came north, December 14th, so that the vegetables gathered before February 3d had grown in six weeks or less.

Regarding the planting of trees in the orange groves, Mr. Hayes writes as follows:

"The work of planting is progressing and care is being exercised in the placing of the trees in the ground in the best manner. Many of the trees are putting out new shoots which are pinched back as soon as the tree is put into the ground."

SUPT. REID ARRIVES.

President Hayes writes under date of Feb. 15th that Mr. Robert Reid, the new superintendent of the Manigua Orange and Grapefruit Groves, arrived on that day and took charge of the work at once. His house will soon be finished.



THE NEW $45,000 TWIN SCREW PASSENGER AND FREIGHT STEAMER "CRISTOBAL COLON" (CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS). The Colon will leave Batabano Monday and Wednesday nights at 11 o'clock, arriving in the Isle of Pines the following mornings.

Departures for McKinley.

Mr. Charles O. Sherman left for McKinley on the "Morro Castle," sailing Feb. 17th. Mr. Sherman has taken half of tract 420 and will proceed to clear and plant it. He is experienced in farm work and will take hold vigorously at McKinley.

Mr. R. H. M. Hopkins leaves for McKinley on the "Morro Castle," sailing March 3d, for a brief visit. He will stay with his partner, Mr. R. G. Parsons, on their property. Others in the party already there are Mrs. Parsons and son and Mr. Harlow C. Palmer.

Mr. Albert B. Young, First Annual Inspector of the Tropical Development Company, who was recently elected by the bondholders, expects to leave for McKinley about March 15th. He has been delayed by the building of a new factory for the Cling-Surface Company, of which he is president.

Mr. J. E. Schu and Mr. Frank K. Smith left on a visit to McKinley early in February. Mr. Schu has purchased the northern five acres of tract 237, while Mr. Smith has bought tract 219. Messrs. Schu and Smith are substantial, energetic business men and will doubtless decide to have their properties improved after inspecting them.

WILL OPEN PORT McKINLEY AT ONCE

The new steamer "Cristobal Colon" sailed from Wilmington, Del., for the Isle of Pines under her own steam on Feb. 24th and is expected to arrive at her destination early this month.

The Tropical Development Company is, therefore, hastening its arrangements for removing the sand-bar at the mouth of the Nuevas River and it is expected that the work will be accomplished in a short time.

This will assure a landing on our own property for passengers and freight and the best shipping facilities from "Port McKinley."

President Hayes has written for authority to open a road from Port McKinley (junction of the rivers which bound our property) back through the Colony lands and connecting with the road to the Manigua Orange Groves. The necessary instructions have been given him to this effect.

The work of laying out Port McKinley in town-lots for the erection of stores, warehouses, etc., which naturally cluster around a port, will be taken up soon.

TRIAL TRIP OF THE NEW STEAMER "COLON."

HER SPEED EXCEEDS CONTRACT DEMANDS.

The "Colon" Left for the Isle of Pines Feb. 24.

Another magnificent steamer has been added to the list of those turned out by the Pusey and Jones Company.

Yesterday the passenger and freight steamship Cristobal Colon, building at the local plant for the Isle of Pines Steamship Company, was given a trial trip on the Delaware River and proved beyond all doubt that it was one of the best boats in every respect ever built in Wilmington.

That the boat is satisfactory is attested by the fact that it made an average speed of fourteen and one-half miles an hour on the four hour endurance run when the specifications called for a speed of twelve knots an hour. This was done with the engines running smoothly as clock work and without any forcing. The speed could have been maintained for twelve or fifteen hours.

The Colon left the local wharves at 10.12 o'clock yesterday morning. It was towed to the Delaware River by the tugboat Atlas and then cast off and started its own engines.

All steam was crowded on and the boat was pushed through the water just as fast as the engines could make the two propellers revolve. The craft trembled from stem to stern, the prow cut through the water like a knife and water sprang several feet into the air and when the line was crossed at the finish the stop watches showed that the boat had covered the mile in four minutes and forty-nine seconds. It had steamed against a strong tide and a very high head wind and when this is considered, the time for the distance is the more remarkable. The mile was then run at full speed with the tide and was covered in three minutes and forty seconds. The average distance traversed by the steamer in one hour is deduced from these figures and showed fourteen and one-half miles.

After these runs the steamer was given other trials, the engines tested in various ways and the electric light plant operated. About four o'clock the start for home was made and with a union jack flowing from the bow and the Stars and Stripes flung to the breeze from the stern the victorious craft steamed up the Christiana River and moored at the local docks after one of the most successful and remarkable trial trips ever made on the Delaware River.

The Cristobal Colon will ply between the city of Batabano on the south coast of Cuba, and the Isle of Pines.

In speaking of the trip and the boat, T. J. Keenan, president of the Isle of Pines Steamship Company, the owners of the new craft, said: "The trip was very satisfactory in all respects and I am much pleased with the boat. I feel sure it will prove to be the best boat ever run in that part of the country."

Thomas H. Savery, president of the Pusey and Jones Company, expressed himself as much pleased with the results of the trial trip and more than satisfied with the boat.

The Colon will be completed in about ten days and will then start for its destination.—*Wilmington Evening Journal, Jan. 30, 1906.*

The McKinley Herald.

PUBLISHED BY THE TROPICAL DEVELOPMENT COMPANY, 17 WEST SWAN ST., BUFFALO, N. Y., AND McKINLEY, ISLE OF PINES.

MARCH, 1906.

THE HOME MARKET.

While most of our plans for selling fruit and vegetables raised at McKinley have contemplated shipment to the United States, our colonists should not overlook the home market. Up to the present time the Tropical Development Company has been bringing over from Havana for its store and the Grove House large quantities of white potatoes, sweet potatoes, onions and dried beans which can just as well be raised in future by our colonists on their tracts. The company stands ready to buy from its colonists in the next twelve months 100 barrels of white potatoes, 100 bushels of sweet potatoes, 100 bushels of onions and 50 bushels of dried beans, to be delivered from time to time as required. We can also use considerable quantities of green peas, string beans, sweet corn, cabbage, lettuce, tomatoes, squash, egg-plant, pineapples and bananas, which we have either been buying from outsiders or for which we have substituted canned goods while our settlers have been clearing and breaking up their lands. The supply of eggs, poultry and fresh pork that we get from the native farmers is variable and often insufficient for our growing needs. We can use the produce from many acres of land without its being hauled outside our own tract. After we are supplied, certain vegetables will find ready market without going further than Havana. Cuba imports large quantities of food stuffs that can be raised on her own soil much to her advantage. The laws and customs of the despotic Spanish regime favored the production of the two great staples, sugar and tobacco, which are grown on large estates by the labor of employes and tenants, and discouraged diversified agriculture and intensive cultivation carried on by small independent land owners. The existing truck gardens of Cuba can not feed the increasing population of the island, especially with the steady stream of Americans resorting there for business or pleasure. In 1902 Cuba imported onions to the value of $281,131; mostly from Spain; beans and peas $863,339; potatoes, $625,944; pickles and preserved and salted vegetables, $328,305; other vegetables, $229,309; and eggs, $201,410, mostly from the U. S. Such a home market to supply, where the matter of transportation enters little, adds greatly to the profits which we can derive from cultivating our lands.

"LEST WE FORGET."

That most excellent paper the *New York Packer* is publishing reports from the south and southwest in every issue describing the progress which the early vegetable growers of those sections are making in handling the season's crop.

These news items are full of good ideas and suggestions for us and bring home most forcibly the truth of the statements made by the Tropical Development Company regarding the profits to be secured by those who go into this line of work at McKinley.

A BEAUTIFUL PIECE OF CLEARING ON ONE OF THE TRACTS OWNED BY MESSRS. G. F. & C. F. YOUNG and their Brother, Mr. ALBERT B. YOUNG. In the foreground Mr. Emil Tolksdorff may be seen plowing.

Shipments of early vegetables from Florida are already going forward, thanks to the very unusual mild weather, and it is needless to say prices are very satisfactory. From southern Alabama comes the report that four or five hundred cars of strawberries will be shipped from that section between March 20th and April 25th. Orders have so far been placed for over 130,000 crates by the berry-growers, and already the buyers of the big northern commission houses are beginning to arrive to contract for the season's crop. The leading varieties planted are the Lady Thompson and the Klondike.

In southeastern Texas the melon and vegetable growers are busy as bees in a field of clover looking after their rapidly maturing crops, while further north, up in Tennessee and Georgia, their brother workers are getting ready for *their* season, which is somewhat later.

Over at McKinley we have no frost problem to contend with, hence we can plant as early as we please without fear of a sudden cold wave. Our markets are found in the great cities of the Middle West and the Atlantic Seaboard, whose teeming populations stand ready to take our produce as fast as we can deliver it. Buyers from New York and Chicago are beginning to start earlier on their southern trips these days, so as to include Cuba on their itinerary *first* and journey northward with the season as it advances.

We hope our settlers at McKinley will remember these things, for in the products of our fields and orchards lies the success of this enterprise—*your* success, friends, as well as *ours*.

Remember, that the work that you are doing at McKinley is no *harder*, no more *unusual* and not so *uncertain* in its results as is the work which is being done every day in the trucking sections of the south and southwest.

Go at your self-appointed task, then, with a stout heart and a determination to *succeed*. Get your tract cleared, fenced and plowed so that you will be ready next fall to set out your crop of egg-plants, tomatoes, cucumbers, okra and lettuce which, in nine or ten weeks after planting will yield you *a rich return*.

Watermelons and Peaches.

A good deal of interest was aroused among our bondholders by the article which appeared recently in the HERALD regarding the cultivation of watermelons in the Isle of Pines and the big prices which they bring in the adjacent Havana markets. It seemed difficult for some to believe that watermelons could be sold in Havana for 60c each Spanish silver (equivalent to 45c in American money), but the facts are as stated, and it is also true that the Cuban, Claudio Diaz, sold hundreds of melons last summer at this and even higher prices. The Cubans are extravagantly fond of watermelons, from which they make a crushed fruit drink very popular in summer at the cafes along the Prado in Havana. The heavy, stiff, red and black soils of Cuba are not so well adapted to growing watermelons as the loose, rich, sandy loam of McKinley—hence the opportunity for raising watermelons and selling them in the Havana market at a big profit.

Peaches are another fruit which the Cubans are very fond of and which can be raised to good advantage in the Isle of Pines. They sell at high prices in Havana and are readily marketable.

It has only been known recently that peaches would thrive in Cuba. Now that an American, a Mr. Sanborn at Artemisa, in the Province of Pinar del Rio, opposite the Isle of Pines, has successfuly cultivated five acres of peach trees, however, Americans need not hestitate to add peach trees to their list of orchard stock.

Some Florida orchardists, whose peach orchards in South Florida are well-known in that state, said in the office of the Tropical Development Company a few weeks ago that they shipped their entire peach-crop last summer to Havana and sold it at prices which ranged from *$4* to *$4.50 per crate*.

On a yield of only one crate per tree, which is a very conservative estimate, a peach orchard consisting of ten acres planted with 230 trees to the acre, should yield gross returns of about $1,000 per acre. Peach trees will yield from four to six quarts of fruit the second year after planting, the yield increasing the following year. The best varieties to plant in the Isle of Pines are the "Red Ceylon" (strongly recommended by the Florida growers above referred to) and two other early bearing varieties, the "Waldo" and "Alphonos." One year old trees, standard size, 4 to 6 feet in height, are quoted at the following prices in Florida, viz., $9.00 per hundred or $70 per thousand. The number of trees set on 10 acres is 2,300, which would cost about $175 delivered at McKinley.

We would urge that some of our settlers go into peach-growing, as we believe it will prove a very profitable investment.

To a Royal Palm.

Majestic tree—thy stately mien
Doth grace a Southern land!
Long wave thy shimmering green!

When gentle winds do, softly blow,
Wave toward the ships at sea—
A welcome, sweet and low!

From tinted shores—of ocean shell—
Of pink and pearl-white sand—
Doth wave that all is well!

O'er billow blue, o'er foaming wave
Thy crown—majestic tree—
Would'st guide the lost—would'st save!

How powerful is the voice of deep
That lures the souls of men—
Yet fawns beneath thy feet!

'Neath sunny skies—wave thou alway
Thy shimmering banners—when—
Is spent the year's brief stay!

CAROLYN B. LYMAN.

McKINLEY ITEMS.

Mrs. Nellie E. Waters has set out two acres of orange trees and has ordered 3,000 pineapple plants and has made other improvements in her property, tract No. 371.

Mr. J. H. Bostwick is planting a part of his tracts, Nos. 421 and 431, with orange trees.

Mr. Geo. R. McMullen has accomplished a great deal of work during the first ten months of his residence in McKinley. Mr. McMullen has built a comfortable cottage on tract No. 179, in which he and his wife are living, and has also cleared and planted a considerable acreage for himself and son-in-law, Mr. A. W. Miesse of New York. Mr. McMullen has set out many varieties of vegetables, also a lot of pineapples and 500 grapefruit trees. He is a hustler, and is demonstrating what a good man can do at McKinley.

President Hayes writes, that the cottage which the Company is building for Supt. Reid will stand on the first road south of the Grove House, being just south of the center of the orange groves tract.

The saw-mill finished cutting about all of the lumber required by Mr. Dunning for his new house the last of January and then went to work to cut the material for the Superintendent's cottage. The material for Mr. Cleland's new two-story house was well under way the last of January. When the urgent needs of colonists for building material are satisfied, the saw mill will probably cut the lumber for the porch which is to be added to the Grove House.

Mrs. J. E. Hubbard and her son and Mr. Guy Webster, who reached McKinley January 30th, are boarding with Mr. and Mrs. McMullen.

Mr. Geo. O. Widner has cleared about half of his ten-acre tract, No. 293, and expects to have his first five acres planted with trees in a short time.

Mr. Eugene A. Vogt and Mr. James F. Kennedy are still busily pushing their clearing. They are tenting on their tracts.

Mr. Matthew Porter, formerly of Dansville, after an inspection of the McKinley lands, has selected tract 435, southeast of the Orange Grove. Mr. Porter is a practical and energetic man and we expect to hear of good results from him within a short time.

Mr. and Mrs. George A. Otis arrived at McKinley January 29th, and after inspecting his tract, No. 287, Mr. Otis contracted at once with Messrs. Payne & Chaddock for clearing and planting it.

This Firm's Address is New York.

H. E. Schwitters & Son received 450 boxes of oranges and grapefruit over the Clyde line on Wednesday. Cuban okra brings $6@$7 per crate from seed furnished by them.

Mr. John Thomas, part of whose family is at McKinley, leaves early this month on a visit to the island.

CORRESPONDENCE FROM McKINLEY.

The following letter is from Mr. Chas. F. Young who, with his brother, Mr. Geo. F. Young, and Mrs. Geo. F. Young, went to McKinley last fall:

"McKinley, Jan. 27, 1906.

R. P. Risley, Esq.:

"Dear Sir—It is a long time since I have written to you, but we have been very busy.

"This is a beautiful day—bright sun and just a little breeze to stir the air and make it comfortable. It is about 78 degrees in the shade.

"In our tracts fronting the river we have about 48 to 50 acres. Of that, we have about 25 acres cleared and about 20 acres plowed and ready for our orange and grapefruit trees. These tracts, according to your company's maps, comprise Nos. 241, 223, 224, 205, 206, 187 and 188. A part of 207 is cleared. About all of 190 is cleared and plowed. No. 173 is all cleared and the stumps and roots ready to burn and the land ready to plow, so you see that we have done some work. But it is not all my property. It is my brothers' and mine.

"We have our tents set about 300 feet west of the road running north and south along our property, with a 25-ft. private road to the tents. We will plant cocoanuts on either side of this private road. Our tents are about 2½ feet above the ground and on the floor of the tents we spread newspapers first and then matting. Our kitchen is 8x10 ft. and is directly back of the tent with a platform 8 feet wide on the rear of it. We have a fine *driven well* with pump coming up through this platform, making it very convenient. On a part of the platform George and I have built a tool-house where we keep all of our tools safe from the weather.

"We are hard at work building our pineapple shed. We have some very fine pineapple plants which we imported ourselves from Florida. We hope to begin planting them the latter end of next week. Our garden is coming along nicely.

"The Company are rushing the planting of their 6,000 orange and grapefruit trees. They are almost through and expect to receive 6,000 more right away.

"Mr. Dunning has his hotel or boarding house almost completed, and it is a very fine place with a road in front and one at the side. It makes a nice appearance.

"Mr. McMullen has been planting grapefruit trees. He has a comfortable house and a nice place.

"Messrs. Vogt and Kennedy are clearing their tracts and have the ground covered with trees they have cut down.

"Mr. Harlow Palmer has a fine piece cleared—I think most of his ten acres.

"Mr. R. G. Parsons has a fine garden and there are a number north of the town site who are making improvements very fast. Mrs. Waters has a comfortable house and a nice place, and Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Bostwick, just south of the grove, also have a nice piece of property.

"There have been more permanent improvements made in the last three months than were done in all the rest of the year.

"Those bondholders that are in a position at the North earning good salaries, would better have some one clear, plow and plant their trees. Then, in a year or two, if the trees have been properly looked after, they can come down and build their houses and stay if they want to. People asked us at first why we went way back in the woods so far. We told them we only went on our own tracts, but today they do not think it is 'so far back.' Mr. Hayes was much surprised and pleased to see the improvements we have made.

"We are all enjoying good health and are working hard, now we can begin to see the change we make from day to day in the looks of our property.

"Very truly yours,

(Signed) "Chas. F. Young."

"EL NIDO," THE CHARMING HOME OF REV. GEORGE W. WEST, ON TRACT 122, McKINLEY COLONY. Rev. West and his daughter Miss Grace, have resided at McKinley six months. Note the Pineapple Plants and Young Orange Trees in the foreground. In the background are some fine Royal Palms.—Photo by Oscar Seelbach.

It is very gratifying to receive a letter like the foregoing and to know that the upbuilding of the colony is going on so steadily. The Messrs. Young are practical men, level-headed and far-seeing. When they first set foot upon their lands last October, they wrote to their brother, Mr. Albert B. Young, that they could see in their minds' eye just how their tracts would look when cleared. They are now beginning to realize their expectations, and with the able assistance of Mr. Emil Tolksdorff, they are "making good" in every sense of the phrase.

A Letter from Rev. Geo. W. West.

Another gratifying letter which came in during the month was from our good friend, Rev. Geo. W. West, who, with his lovely daughter, Miss Grace, removed to McKinley last summer to make it their home. Mr. West's work affords a truly remarkable illustration of what a man can do single-handed and alone with little or no previous experience in farm work and at a very small outlay of capital. As a result of his six months' residence at McKinley, Mr. West has one of the most charmingly beautiful little places imaginable—"a Garden of Eden," he says it is, "without the serpent." But here is Mr. West's letter in which he speaks for himself:

"El Nido, McKinley, Feb. 3, 1906.

"Tropical Development Co., Buffalo, N. Y.:

"Gentlemen—Six months ago this day we arrived at McKinley. I wrote you at once, telling you how well pleased we were with our surroundings and prospects, and now I thought you would like to hear our experience after the lapse of half a year.

"Our tract is No. 122, bounded on the east by the town site and on the west by the Nuevas River. It had been cleared by the natives years ago, but overgrown with weeds and bushes. In a single day two natives made it ready for the plow, and it was plowed and harrowed at once, and left for six weeks for sun and rain to sweeten. In eleven days after our arrival our cottage 12x20 feet, was ready for occupancy, and a month later a veranda 8x40 feet was added. The house cost $58 and the piazza $35. With my own hands I built a rustic railing, adding greatly to its appearance.

"Two hundred orange and grapefruit trees three years old were set out, costing 25c each planted. Between the rows of trees I set out 1,000 pineapple plants, and between the trees themselves I planted four varieties of corn. As soon as the 'rainy season' was supposed to be over I planted a bushel of potatoes and in *two months* I began digging them. The yield is small, but we have no reason to expect large crops the first year of cultivation after ages of neglect and growth in weeds, pines and palms. Next May I intend to sow every empty plot with velvet beans and cow-peas, and when these are grown and green, plow them under—the best and cheapest fertilizer in the world.

"I have also 100 tomato plants bearing ripe fruit now, and we have nearly every day on our table beans, lettuce, radish, potatoes and tomatoes. I have also in the ground 250 sweet potato vines and after five or six months they will bear the year round. I ordered, two months ago, seventy-five banana trees three feet high at five cents each, but people are slow here and the 'manana' (tomorrow) is a common disease.

"I wish all prospective prospectors knew that there has not been nor is there, nor will there be any revolution or uprising or trouble or excitement here. We believe we belong to Uncle Sam and we don't want him to neglect us or forget us. That is the root of the matter. Whatever the decision may be, we are Americans and the Isle of Pines is American—owned mostly by Americans. With our push, pluck, perseverance and money we are building roads, bridges and boats—determined to develop the country and the natives look on and wonder, or turn their backs and go over to Cuba, leaving the field naturally to American occupation.

"While it is a pleasure to answer letters asking for information about McKinley, it is a tax to pay postage and U. S. stamps are not in use at present. Mr. B—— received eighteen such letters in one day."

In conclusion, Mr. West says that he is glad to be able to say that there are no wild beasts or dangerous reptiles, and no snow or ice to bother them.

In a letter to Mr. C. F. Cullen, the Rev. West says that "this is one glorious season—one long June day. The thermometer ranges from 68 and 70 to 88 at noon. Air balmy and like *velvet*. A good time to clear land when the trees will burn. Then let the ground sweeten six or eight weeks and set out orange and grapefruit trees in March or April to root, and catch the rainy season in May, when they grow like—like—like—the dickens."

Mr. West says that his grocery bill for December was $1.36 per week for each in his family—that is, for his daughter and himself. He adds, that it will be less in January. He says that Miss West is perfectly contented at McKinley.

A Letter from Mr. Guy Webster

Another interesting letter which we had the pleasure of reading from McKinley came from Mr. Guy Webster, whose father, Mr. James E. Webster of Grand Island, kindly sent it to the office for us to read.

Mr. Guy Webster writes that McKinley is "the real thing" and that it is just as he was told it would be like by the Company. He arrived at McKinley Jan. 30th. He at once inspected his property, the northern five acres of No. 372, and speaking of it says:

"My tract has neither bushes nor very much pine, but what there is is as big as any I have seen. There are only a few pine trees on it. I am going to work on my land because I think the quicker I get it cleared the better. You don't have to dig the stumps out to plant your orange trees unless the stumps happen to be in the way. An orange tree from Florida costs about 35c and you can get them from the Company at that price."

Mr. Webster has had a lot of experience in farm work and is a pretty good woodsman for a youth of his age.

Another Letter from Mr. F. C. Payne.

Mr. F. W. Newell, West Seneca, N. Y., has sent us through Dr. Gillette a letter from Mr. F. C. Payne dated Jan. 23d, in which Mr. Payne writes quite as enthusiastically of McKinley as he did in the letter which we published in the February Herald. In the course of this letter Mr. Payne says:

"I am enthusiastic over the future of this island and McKinley in particular. Our investment is bound to give us splendid returns in time, but we must be patient. The more capital one has to lay out, the quicker he can expect returns from his tract, though with smaller investments returns in proportion may be had."

Discussing the matter of clearing land for non-resident investors, Mr. Payne writes as follows in the same letter:

"I have not made a close investigation of your tract, though I have been over it and can say you have an excellent tract. I think it would be very wise for you to arrange to have part of your tract cleared and ploughed just as quickly as possible. Land should lie at least three months after ploughing before success can be achieved with gardens, though for oranges this is not necessary. They can be put out immediately. If you so desire, I will be pleased to look after any development work you may desire to have done and at a very reasonable compensation for my services. I have an outfit so that I am prepared to take up any kind of contract work and do it to one's entire satisfaction."

Pointers About Pecans from the "Packer"

Long Beach, Miss., Jan. 24.—Pecan growing promises to become a leading industry in this vicinity in the near future. W. J. Quarles & Son will put about forty acres in these profitable nut-bearing trees this spring. Mr. Quarles already has forty or fifty bearing trees, which have netted him about $300 a season for the past two years.

J. F. Lindsay has about the same number of trees, from which he received more than $600 last year.

Nugent, Miss., Jan. 25.—A party of northern men have organized a company with a capital of $100,000 to raise pecans at this point. A plantation of 700 acres has been purchased and is being cleared. Trees will be set during the winter. Forty to fifty trees are set to the acre. While the trees are young, early vegetables and berries will be cultivated between the rows. The trees begin bearing a few nuts while young and at the age of ten years frequently bear 75 to 100 pounds per tree. —*N. Y. Packer.*

An Illustration of our Easy Payment Plan.

In order to make it as convenient as possible for purchasers to buy and pay for our Profit-sharing Gold Bonds without making a heavy outlay of money at any one time, we have arranged an easy plan of installment payments covering four years.

We charge no interest on these installments, and we give you the right to settle on your land as soon as you have made your first payment. You can proceed to plant it and sell your crops without any charge from us except the regular installment payments. Thus you save your rent and you also save the expensive coal bills which you have to pay here.

The following table of payments explains our plan fully:

	Monthly	Every 3 months	Every 6 months	Yearly
1 bond..	$ 1.78	$ 5.32	$10.63	$21.25
2 bonds.	3.55	10.63	21.25	42.50
3 bonds.	5.32	15.95	31.90	63,80
4 bonds.	7.09	21.25	42.50	85.00
5 bonds.	8.86	26.58	53.16	106.25
6 bonds.	10.63	31.88	63.75	127.50
7 bonds.	12.40	37.20	74.40	148.80
8 bonds.	14.17	42.50	85.00	170.00
9 bonds.	15.94	47.82	95.63	191.25
10 bonds.	17.71	53.13	106.25	212.50
11 bonds.	19.48	58.44	116.88	233.75
12 bonds.	21.25	63.75	127.50	255.00
15 bonds.	26.57	79.69	159.38	318.75
20 bonds.	35.42	106.26	212.50	425.00
24 bonds.	42.50	127.50	255.00	510.00

At the request of numerous Bondholders, the Company has decided to allow a discount of Ten Per Cent. (10%) on annual payments, so that you *save money by paying annually at time of purchase.*

The net amount of money due the Company on any annual payment after the Ten Per Cent. discount is deducted may be seen at a glance by consulting the following table:

	Yearly Payment	Less Ten Per Cent	Net Amount Due Company
1 bond.....	$ 21.25	$ 2.12	$ 19.13
2 bonds....	42.50	4.25	38.25
3 bonds....	63.80	6.38	57.42
4 bonds....	85.00	8.50	76.50
5 bonds....	106.25	10.63	95.62
6 bonds....	127.50	12.75	114.75
7 bonds....	148.80	14.88	133.92
8 bonds....	170.00	17.00	153.00
9 bonds....	191.25	19.12	172.13
10 bonds....	212.52	21.25	191.25
11 bonds....	233.75	23.37	210.38
12 bonds....	255.00	25.50	229.50
15 bonds....	318.75	31.87	286.88
20 bonds....	425.00	42.25	382.75
24 bonds....	510.00	51.00	459.00

Now, you will see by reading over the above table, that you can buy, say, 12 bonds while they are selling at the present price of $85 each and pay only $21.25 down on them as your first payment, or if you pay a year's payment you get Ten Per Cent. discount. You can then move down to McKinley and settle on your tract. If you wish to change your location you can pick out any other tract on our property which is open for purchase. Our president, Mr. Horace P. Hayes, will cheerfully assist you in this or any other matter affecting your welfare or happiness, as far as possible.

Therefore, by paying only $21.25 down and $21.25 a month for four years, or an annual payment of $229.50, you can secure 12 of our Gold Bonds at $85 and get a free deed to 10 acres of the best fruit and vegetable land in the tropics, a couple of fine residence lots and a business lot in the new American town of McKinley.

Buy *now* before the price advances.

Some Interesting Facts About Our Trees.

In the February issue of the HERALD a list of the varieties of trees which the Tropical Development Company is planting was published, and in this connection some facts regarding these varieties will be found of interest.

In the first place, it must be remembered that an orange or grapefruit tree, according to the latest scientific methods, is produced first by planting a citrus seed which produces a hardy tree that is technically known as a "stock." When this tree and its roots are from one to three years old, it is budded with any desired kind of citrus fruit. The budding determines the variety of fruit that the hybrid tree will bear while the healthfulness of the tree is mainly dependent upon the roots produced by the original seed.

The 6,000 orange and grapefruit trees which were received in January by the Tropical Development Company from Florida, were budded principally on Sour or Wild Orange roots and Rough Lemon roots which had been planted in seed-bed and propagated for nursery purposes.

Speaking of the Sour Orange as a stock, a well known nursery concern describes it as follows:

"The Sour Orange is a general favorite among grove owners in the lake region, and also with many on the lower west coast of Florida. The young trees are not of as rapid growth as the Sweet Orange or the Rough Lemon, but when once established grow vigorously and make handsome grove trees; it adapts itself to either the low pine land, light or heavy hammock, thriving best on the moist soil, or well-drained hammock. Trees budded on Sour Orange are, as a rule, a little tardy in producing fruit, much depending upon the variety budded upon it."

Regarding the Rough Lemon stock, the same people say:

"The Rough Lemon is the most vigorous of our list of Citrus stocks; trees budded on it are usually tender and should not be planted where there is danger from frost. It is well adapted for planting in the extreme southern portion of Florida, either on the east or west coast, in Cuba, the West India Islands and Central American countries. It adapts itself to a greater range of soils and conditions than other of the citrus stocks, does fairly well on light, sandy soil, makes good growth when planted in the rocky soil of Dade County, but when planted on the low moist soils and in heavy hammocks, the growth is most remarkable. The Rough Lemon will stand a greater amount of water than any other of the orange stocks. We have known of Wild Lemon trees growing in places where the roots were under the water fully one-third of the time. Trees budded on Rough Lemon usually produce fruit at a very early age."

It is believed very confidently that these two kinds of stock are the best for planting in the Isle of Pines. The following descriptions of the different varieties of orange and grapefruit trees (buds) which we are setting out, are given by the same authority quoted above:

One Thousand Hart's Tardiff. "One of the most popular late oranges. The fruit ripens in April, hangs on the trees in good condition until midsummer; tree is of strong and vigorous growth. The variety is distinct, very prolific and comes into bearing comparatively early. Fruit medium size; round to slightly oval, smooth and heavy, the flesh being firm; flavor when ripe, brisk and racy; color lightish orange; few if any seed."

One Thousand Pineapple Trees. "An old favorite in the Orange Lake region of Florida, possessing a fine pineapple flavor; fruit medium in size, thin skin, heavy and juicy, quality best. Exceptionally good keeper, well suited for long distance or foreign shipments, making it especially desirable for Cuban, Central American and Mexican planting."

One Thousand Valencia. "A late orange of exceptionally good quality, is deservedly popular in California, where it is largely grown, and usually brings fancy prices during the spring and summer months. Fruit ripens in May or June and often hangs on the trees in good condition until July or August; juicy and tender; quality excellent. A good variety and should be largely planted in Florida and the Islands."

Three Hundred Parson Brown. "An early orange that was very popular in Lake Weir section previous to the 1895 freeze. Claimed by some not to be of the best quality, but if properly cultivated and fertilized, is a good flavored fruit; size medium round but slightly oblong, smooth skin, fine texture; keeps and ships well; begins ripening in November; a good early orange, considered by some to be superior to Boone's Early."

Two Hundred Majorca. "Medium size, round, rich, juicy and sweet. Trees have similar habits and characteristics of Jaffa. A good keeper and popular market variety. Medium to late season."

Fifteen Hundred Grapefruit. "Medium size, color light lemon yellow, heavy, of excellent quality; trees are strong, upright growers, very prolific, bearing fruit in large clusters. The favorite among many planters."

The company also received 1000 of Thompson's Improved Navel orange trees, a description of which we have not at hand at the present moment.

High Prices for Vegetables.

Louisiana lettuce is coming freely, and sells from $5 to $6. The wide range in price is due to the quality of stock coming. Of course, some lots have to be sold for less than $5. Shallots, when in good condition, sell well at around $6. The supply has been ample on this market, but some outside points have not received much New Orleans stock so far.

Strawberries sell as high as $6, if bright and sound. They moved only in a small way so far. A good many berries that are small and off in quality have to be handled at 30c and 35c. Some water soaked lots have to be given away or sold for a trifle. With favorable weather berries will be coming more freely within a week or ten days.

Egg-plant is in fair demand and fresh stock has been pretty scarce on this market. Choice stock has brought as high as $4, while some lots held over run from $1.50 to $2. Peppers sell in a limited way and bring from $3 to $3.50. String beans sell from $3 to $4 and receipts have been light. Peas bring around $3. Tomatoes show a wide range in quality and price. Fine, sound, ripe Florida stock has sold as high as $5, while common stock is slow sale at as low as $1.50. Cuban tomatoes are coming a little more freely. They sell around $3.50 in six basket cases. Californias in four basket cases bring from $1 to $2.

If no freeze comes to knock out early vegetables in the South this market bids fair to do a big business for the wide awake houses here are planning for a heavy business. Everything looks good now.—*N. Y. Packer.*

There is Big Money in This Fruit.

Geo. B. Cellon, of Miami, Fla., has discovered a method by which he is able to bud the Aguacate pear tree. This has recently been propagated, cultivated and produced from chance seedling trees. Under those conditions the results were very unsatisfactory, as the products vary much in size, shape and quality.

McKINLEY, ISLE OF PINES

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